Vizag Refinery

3764. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vizag Refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in Andhra Pradesh is fire-prone;

(b) if so, the details of the fire incidents in the refinery during the last three years, year-wise and losses suffered therein; and

(c) the details of fool- proof safety measures introduced in the refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As a petroleum refinery handles extremely flammable liquids and gases during the refining operations and subsequent storage, risk of fire always exists.

(b) The details of fire incidents in Vizag Refinery during the last three years are as follows:—

S. No.	*Year*	*No. of fire incidents*	*Loss (in Rs. crore)*
1.	1999-2000	2	Nil
2.	2000-2001	3	2.9. (the amount has been claimed from insurance)
3.	2001-2002	1	Nil

(c) Vizag Refinery has a well-documented and well-established Safety Management System (SMS) covering all aspects of the refinery operations which is followed by all the employees. The SMS encompasses areas like:—

(i) Process Safety: Elimination of risk at design stage itself, hazard and operability study, etc.

(ii) Preventive/predictive maintenance for static and rotating equipment.

(iii) Control of ignition source by strict adherence to work permit system.

(iv) Regular training of company's as well as contractors' personnel on safe practices, safe operation, fire-fighting, etc.

(v) Installation and upkeep of hydrocarbon leak detectors, fire detectors/alarms.

(vi) Monitoring of SMS through internal safety audits and safety Committees.

Further, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) conducts an external safety audit of the refinery once in two years through a panel of experts from the oil industry. OISD also conducts surprise safety checks of the refinery every year. The recommendations made by OISD are taken up by HPCL for implementation and are monitored periodically. OSID guidelines as well as other relevant national and international standards are also followed.

Weight of LPG cylinder

3765. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weight of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of LPG dealers in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have given 'in-principle' approval to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to market 5 Kg. LPG cylinders primarily to increase the supply of LPG for domestic purpose, keeping in view the affordability and transportability by customers in rural/urban areas and in hilly areas.